

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1649

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9536

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP, OCON, UR, CH

SUBJ: ESCAP: SOVIET-CHINESE ARGUMENT OVER REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP

REF : BANGKOK 8222

1. ESCAP SECRETARIAT DOES NOT INTEND CIRCULATE
SEPARATELY UNITED NATIONS LEGAL OFFICE
TELEGRAM WHICH DECLARED SOVIET UNION WAS NOT ESCAP
REGIONAL MEMBER. TEXT WILL BE INCLUDED INSTEAD IN
SUMMARY RECORD OF 32ND SESSION.

2. ESCAP INFORMATION SERVICE, HOWEVER, IN PRESS
RELEASE ON CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION HAS DESCRIBED
THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE RATHER WELL. TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: LEGAL OPINION ON TELECOMMUNITY
V.L. BORISSOV (SOVIET UNION) ASKED FOR AN
EXPLANATION FOR THE OMISSION OF THE SOVIET UNION
FROM THE LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO SIGN THE
CONSTITUTION FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY
DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEVANT CHAPTER OF
THE REPORT.

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LARGE AREAS OF THE SOVIET UNION WERE IN ASIA, HE SAID.

HIS COUNTRY WAS THEREFORE ENTITLED TO
BE SIGNATORY TO THE CONSTITUTION.

THE LEGAL OPINION READ BY MR. MARAMIS, THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCAP, SAID THAT THE TERM
QUOTE REGION UNQUOTE USED IN THE CONSTITUTION
FOR THE TELECOMMUNITY REFERRED TO THE ESCAP REGION.
THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ESCAP AS WELL AS PRACTICE
OF ESCAP AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOC) SHOWED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS
NOT WITHIN THE ESCAP REGION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE
SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT BE ELEGIBLE TO SIGN THE
CONSTITUTION, UNLESS DISCUSSION OF THE MEMBERSHIP
CLAUSE INDICATED OTHERWISE. THE SAME WOULD APPLY
TO OTHER MEMBERS OF ESCAP NOT WITHIN THE REGION,
SUCH AS FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, U.K. AND THE U.S.A.

THE STATEMENT ADDED THAT SHOULD QUESTIONS
CONTINUE TO BE RAISED ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE ESCAP
REGION, THIS ISSUE COULD BE DECIDED BY MEMBERS OF
THE TELECOMMUNITY AFTER ITS CONSTITUTION ENTERED
INTO FORCE.

MR. BORISSOV (SOVIET UNION) SAID HE DID NOT
CONSIDER THE MATTER AS CLOSED. HE SUGGESTED THAT
IT SHOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER STUDY, ADDING THAT HIS
DELEGATION INTENDED TO RAISE IT ELSEWHERE.

YEH CHENG-PAI (CHINA) SAID THE OPINION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS WAS
CLEAR. THE SOVIET UNION WAS WITHIN EUROPE AND NOT
ASIA. HIS DELEGATION SAW NO POINT IN THE MATTER
BEING STUDIED FURTHER. HE REQUESTED THAT
THE STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS LEGAL OFFICE
BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBER STATES.

D. ERDEMBILEG (MONGOLIA) SAID HIS DELEGATION
SUPPORTED THE SOVIET POSITION. MONGOLIA BELIEVED
THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS WITHIN ASIA. HE ALSO
SUPPORTED THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE
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FOR FURTHER STUDY OF THE MATTER. END TEXT.
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